

# A-level Classical Civilisation

Below you will find some information regarding the A-level Classical Civilisation course.

## What is covered?

Classical Civilisation focuses on the civilisations of Greece and Rome, and is a wide-ranging subject involving the study of literature, material culture, ancient thought and ideas.

### Component 1: The World of the Hero

This is a compulsory component consisting of an in-depth study of Homer's *Odyssey* and Virgil's *Aeneid*. This component is solely focused on the study of literature in translation. In this topic you will develop an increasingly sophisticated level of knowledge and understanding of the epics themselves, the way in which they were composed, and the religious, cultural and social values and beliefs of its society.

### Component 2: Culture and the Arts: Imperial Image

The idea of a politician 'spinning' their public image is one which is very familiar from our contemporary media; and so this exploration of a Roman politician and his successful propaganda campaign is both highly relevant and engaging. This component involves the study of visual and material culture and this is combined with the study of literature in translation.

### Component 3: Beliefs and Ideas: Greek Religion

Religion was an essential part of ancient Greek identity, permeating all strata of society and all aspects of an individual's daily life. You will not only explore the nature of the gods and their relationship with mortals, but you will be also studying the practicalities of religious ritual, and the role it played in society, alongside the functions and layout of famous temple complexes. Components in this group involve of an area of classical thought, in combination with either the study of literature in translation or visual/material culture.

## What does the course involve?

The course will be assessed by three examinations, one relating to each component of the course. Assessment will be by extended writing.

Classical Civilisation is naturally particularly valued by Classics departments in UK universities, but not only by Classics departments. The study of A Level Classical Civilisation can often lead to the university-level study of Drama, English, History, History of Art, Philosophy and Politics. Classical Civilisation is listed on UCL's list of preferred A Level subjects and on Trinity College, Cambridge's list of Generally Suitable Arts A Levels. Information from UCAS shows that students who studied Classical Civilisation went on to study in such diverse disciplines as Medicine, Veterinary Science and Chemistry!

## Quick course facts

You should have a minimum of five GCSEs graded at level 4 or above, including Mathematics. Also a minimum of level 5 or above in either Classical Civilisation, History or English.

You don't need to know any languages, all the texts are in translation, and it doesn't matter if you haven't studied the Greeks and Romans since primary school; all you need is an interest in the ancient world and its cultures.

A passion for reading and a desire to expand your knowledge is crucial to succeeding in this course.

